

THE DAILY TIMES.

PUBLISHED AT
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.
BY THE
Times Publishing Company.

PAGE McCARTY, - - EDITOR.

City delivery by carriers at 6 cents per week.

BY MAIL, POSTAGE PAID:

Daily, 1 year, \$5.00
Daily, 6 months, 2.50
Daily, 3 months, 1.25

Liberal commission to agents to solicit subscriptions.

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1 inch, 6 months,	57.00
1 inch, 12 months,	75.00

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

FRIDAY, - - - - - DECEMBER 10.

The electoral-count bill was called up in the House early this week, and it is to be hoped that it will be properly amended and passed.

A distinguished Canadian explains the effects of protection, and how it has injured the cause of the workingmen in Canada.

While Lord Colin Campbell was on the witness-stand, Mr. Blood, the father of Lady Campbell, rose in court and loudly denounced the noble witness.

Senator Warner Miller finds it necessary to nominate himself as his own successor. But the question is, will the Republicans stand him at his own price.

It is rather late, but it appears to be considered worthy of an official utterance that the Government is not responsible for the safety of mail matter left on the tops of letter-boxes.

On the occasion of securing a jury for McQuade a New York paper wisely remarks that the task would have been easier but for the trial of court, prisoner, and jurymen by the newspapers.

How lively it is to read in the *Tribune* about its pleasure at seeing evidences of Secretary Whitney's sympathy for home industries in a symptom of hope that John Roach will be allowed to foist his job-made ships on the Government.

The Senate will not tackle the question of secret sessions until it is forced up to the point by public opinion.

Traditional custom has fortified the abuse until the Senators must feel that a common and accepted error makes right.

It was not necessary for Governor Lee to take the trouble to contradict a story that he was using the patronage to electioneer for the senatorship.

The Governor will not be suspected of using official favors for his personal benefit.

A resolution passed the Senate last session providing for changing the day for inaugurating the President to the 30th of April.

Many good reasons are enumerated, and doubtless the resolution will pass the House.

Henry George replies at length to Archbishop Corrigan, and in defending his idea that nobody should be allowed to own land. This is very smart.

But his idea is still impractical, and his method of arguing is good, if you grant his premises.

There is a tremulous rumor of war between Germany and France, though there is no cause for it, except in the popular feeling among the French people about the loss of Alsace and Lorraine. But the tremendous process of arming in France gives some credit to the report.

Relative to Mr. Herbert's bill, to make ex-Confederates eligible to appointments in the army, Mr. Gibson, of West Virginia, says: "It is contrary to our form of government that any citizen's rights should be curtailed. I put the passage of the bill on stronger grounds than Mr. Herbert does, for I deem it an act, not of generosity, but of common justice."

Henry George said in a recent speech that as long as there are large numbers of men seeking work without getting it, so long must last the evils of starvation wages.

So he proposes the abrogation of land tenure as the remedy; but how it is to work is the fence at which this alleged philosopher and political economist balks. There are millions of acres of land that are offered at nominal prices comparatively; and in the United States, if there was no land tenure, still the difficulty would be to say what to do next. Certainly no sensible person would consent to the idea of the Government owning everything and fixing the status and employment of every citizen.

Such a thing would begin with the most ghastly despotism; and the free mind and courage of America, trained to individual enterprise and competition, as soon as it felt the yoke and understood what it was, would burst into the most terrific revolution ever known.

Why cannot the crank element of reform understand that the destiny of the workingman has been working itself out rapidly and naturally, and that the best thing is not to change the developing process, but let it work on and give it natural aid.

England and this country ought not to find cause for the delay of red-tape proceedings in the Canadian fisheries matter. The question is simply, Are American vessels engaged in deep-sea fisheries, with which Canada has no right to interfere, precluded by the character of their business from the enjoyment of commercial privileges in Canadian ports, which are accorded without question to all other American vessels? Aside from the vexatious and arbitrary manner in which Canadian officials have dealt in general with our fishing vessels, this is the whole gist of the matter.

The House Committee on Naval Affairs met yesterday and talked about cruisers. We would like to know what a "protected cruiser" is, and would suggest that the protection, if referring to tariff, should be considered in a broader sense than in the Naval Committee. But if it refers to a term in naval warfare, it is certain that all the ships, as well as the cruisers, need it.

There is a burlesque opera in which the King's Guards are guarded by another corps of guards, and possibly the protection of cruisers is a hint gathered in that quarter.

The *Herald*, with its accustomed modesty, remarks:

"It has become a universally acknowledged fact that when a man wishes to know what is going on in the world he must read the *Herald*. Our contemporaries are all very interesting at times."

That is like that Chicago man who talked to Mark Twain for an hour on his own merits, when at last the humorist said, "I congratulate you; for if half you have said is true, you must be the finest man I ever met."

At the meeting of the stockholders of the Western Union it was resolved to declare a dividend; but it is stated that the earnings of the concern have been smaller this year than ever before. And it is reported that Jay Gould and President Garrett, of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, are negotiating to exchange some railroad lines for telegraph lines, that the Baltimore and Ohio may have a line to Kansas City and Mr. Gould a bigger telegraph monopoly than at present.

Concerning the holdings of national bank stock Controller Trenholm reports that of 223,583 shareholders, 215,876 are natural persons, or individuals as distinguished from corporations, and these persons hold 96 per cent. of all the shares. More than half of the shareholders hold 10 shares or less. A third of them hold more than 10 and less than 50, while only 26,828 persons, or a little more than one-ninth, hold more than 50 shares each.

The Columbus Labor Congress has snubbed Powderly's Committee of Knights of Labor who wished to claim the courtesies of the floor. The Trades Union men appear to have the right idea in opposing the big combinations by which the head spirits of the Knights of Labor can control large bodies of workmen against the local interests of the unions.

A St. Petersburg paper descants on the diplomatic ability of the United States, and finds that it must be finer than is generally thought, as the great Republic without anything worth mentioning in the way of army and navy managers to maintain itself abroad and at home.

"Solid emptiness" is the ribald term applied by the *New York Times* to Senator Blair.

Just fancy the effect on any body of men but the august Senate when Mr. Blair proceeded to hold forth on the proposition to change the Constitution in order to let women vote.

If he could be turned loose on the country at large, people would say give us female suffrage rather than any more Blair.

Reed and Boutelle, of Maine, appear to show the signs of Blaine's policy by the way they oppose every step towards tariff reform and reorganization of the navy.

Bitter hostility to revenue reform, and obstruction of all measures, no matter how popular, that will make any branch of the public service more efficient or give relief to the people, is the line of fight of the congressional minority that Blaine commands.

It is believed at Washington that the tone of the President's message against the right of Mexico to try American citizens who violate Mexican laws on American soil will cause grave diplomatic complications.

SPECIAL AND PERSONAL.

F. D. Johnson & Son., of Lynchburg, have published a very handsome illuminated catalogue of their jewelry and silverware.

Anxiety about what Congress may do will presently be tempered with gratitude for what it hasn't done.—*St. Louis Republican*.

Some enterprising man will make a fortune next year by fitting up a barrel in which bridal couples may make the tour of the Niagara Rapids.—*Chicago Tribune*.

Wife—innocently—Is the baseball season over?

Husband—petulantly—Of course. Look at the weather. Any fool ought to know that.

Wife—sweetly—That's why I asked you, my dear.—*Critic*.

Recently several thirsty red men of Truckee formed a syndicate for the purchase of fire-water, and made a willing white man their agent. He bought the rum, but instead of turning it over to the Indians, turned it into himself. When they could get at him the braves enticed him to a secluded spot, gave him a terrific thrashing, and would probably have killed him had not the man been rescued.—*N. Y. Sun*.

Edward Fox, a New York book-keeper who disappeared suddenly last November, returns with this tale: "Why or how I left home, I cannot tell. There is a cloud over that which I cannot see through. I gradually came to realize that I was in a strange house and in a strange city among strangers. Everything was confused, and I could not fix my mind upon anything to think. Was even doubtful about my own identity. Then by newspaper I learned the truth, that I had disappeared on November 1st."

"OUR CONFESSIONS."

[Translated from the "Richmond Dispatch" for the "Daily Times."]

We really felt very badly about it, though we pretended we didn't; we mean the late republication of our ancient editorial on "the Minnesota case."

What satisfaction anybody can find in digging up old and forgotten things and parading them before the public, is something we cannot understand. It shows not only bad taste, but a confoundedly bad spirit. Suppose we did once declare, in our bold and vigorous manner, "the Riddleberger bill does repudiate" and "is in violation of the national Constitution," what is the use of reminding an oblivious world of what we thought and said so long ago as sixteen and two-thirds per cent. of a whole century?

It is a wonder they didn't tell what we said in our editorial of October 13, 1877, in our masterly defense of General Walker against the charge of hostility to the public schools which Yost, of Staunton, brought against him.

Thus we began: "Too many of the Radicals of Virginia are on the side of the forcible Readjusters. (That looks very much as if we ourselves had become a Radical, seeing we are now "on the side of the forcible Readjusters.")"

"We distrust such Virginians as the Staunton postmaster," we continued; "he is a pretty fellow to talk about 'bloated bondholders' or 'bondholders' organs.'" ("Pretty fellow" is good; he struck us pretty hard at that point, and we retaliated with all our force.)

So, after giving Mr. Yost what is commonly called "Hail Columbus" for libeling General Walker, we used this language in our closing paragraph: ("The Dispatch has from the first been as zealous in advocating the public schools as in trying to teach the public to be honest.")

And just here we can fancy some one remarking: "Well, what was the result? You say now that you and the public are in full accord; did you bring the public to your way of thinking, or did the public bring you to their way of thinking? In other words, did you make the public honest, or did the public make you dishonest?"

We cannot deny that we are recommending now what we denounced as dishonest then; we cannot deny that we are advising the public to do now the dishonest thing which we advised them not to do then. But we are suddenly taken with indisposition.

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DALETH.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

[From the Portsmouth Times.]

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Norfolk Virginian*, has done valiant service in behalf of a just and equitable settlement of the State debt whenever that question has come up for discussion, and we are therefore not at all surprised to see that it takes a firm stand again on the right side, now that the matter is again being agitated.

Sunday's *Virginian* says: The people of Virginia are anxious for the adjustment of this vexed question upon any other basis than that of repudiation. For that dishonest course they are not ready, whether the means be direct or indirect. It may be difficult to select from the different propositions made that which will be best for the State and just to the bondholders; but it is plain as day that decisive steps should be taken to pay what Virginia obligations stipulate to be due her creditors.

Exactly so. The time has come when the various methods that have been presented for the payment of the State debt ought to be thoroughly discussed, and some plan decided upon for the payment of the debt in a manner that shall be satisfactory to the bondholders. In other words, let us discuss some way of paying the debt, and not how not to pay it. As the matter now stands the rich man, with his large amount of taxes to pay, buys his coupons at 50 per cent., and thus saves one-half of his taxes, while the poor man, whose taxes are so small that he cannot buy a coupon of a denomination small enough, has to pay his taxes in full. As we have said before, the *Times* approves the proposition it understands the bondholders to offer, viz., the settlement of the State debt upon the basis of the present rate of taxation.

Disclaimer from Governor Lee.
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, VA., December 6.]

To the Editor of the Post:

Believing the best way to contradict the dispatch from Alexandria in this morning's *Post* headed "Fitzhugh Lee for Senator," is over my own signature, I write to say that the statement that the "patronage the Governor controls is being dispensed with the one aim of securing delegates favorable to his aspirations" is unjust to me and untrue in point of fact. The Executive of this State has but little patronage, and can conscientiously declare that it has been bestowed with no other thought than for the public good.

Having said so much, permit me to add, as publicity has been given to the subject, that I have never written or spoken one word to anyone in reference to the next United States Senator from Virginia, nor have I ever been informed of any action on the part of any friends with any such purpose in view as stated in the dispatch from Alexandria. If the Virginia Democrats are wise they will begin at once "to repair their fences" in order to secure a majority of the next House of Delegates (the Senate will be Democratic) and not begin speculating so far in advance on prospective Senatorships. For unless they are more active and vigilant in some parts of the State than they were at the recent Congressional election, the party will not have a United States Senatorship to bestow upon any one.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
FITZHUGH LEE.

Anti-Tithe Agitation in Wales.

The anti-tithe agitation in Wales has assumed such proportions that a subscription has been started by a committee of prominent English churchmen to raise funds to relieve the present necessities of those clergymen in Wales who are left destitute by the refusal of the parishioners to pay the tithes. About \$8000 has been raised for this purpose in four days, the Duke of Westminster having himself given \$2,500 of the amount. The committee declare that they must have \$125,000. They may get it, but public sentiment in England is largely with the people, who have for centuries been paying these oppressive tithes, and the present revolt in Wales is certain to increase rather than diminish.—*Chicago Tribune*.

Ballet Girls' Feet.

It is amazing the care these people bestow on their feet, the sedulous industry with which they pare and bathe and nurse a member that is almost universally neglected.

"The agony of dancing when the feet are not in proper condition," said a premiere the other day to the writer, "no one can have any conception of but the one who goes through it. The pain of a very tight shoe is excruciating, is it not? Multiply that by 1,000 for the time a danseuse is on the stage, and you have some idea of her feelings. Fortunately, it only lasts a short time. If it were to last long she would die of the agony."

From which one may gather that there is no such agony as a sore toe in the ballet.—*New York Journal*.

Cremated by Electricity.

The subject of cremation is assuming more importance daily. It is now proposed to utilize the electric current for this purpose. The body, enveloped in a shroud of asbestos, is laid upon two large copper plates, separated a foot or more from each other. These plates are connected with dynamos of great electro-motive power. On turning on the current the body is rapidly consumed, as, occupying the same position as the carbon or an electric lamp, it becomes highly heated. The process is said to be much more rapid than the old method, and is certainly not so objectionable in many respects.—*Chicago Tribune*.

Richmond and Danville quoted at 185 and West Point Terminal at 49 in New York yesterday.

WITH THE LONDON BUSMEN.

Seventeen Hours a Day, and No Holidays. No Time for Home Pleasures.

"Seventeen hours a day" One hundred and nineteen hours a week! That's my time. I left the yard last night at five and twenty minutes to 2, and I was on my bus again this morning at half-past 8. It's these long hours that tell."

"But you get a holiday sometimes?"

"If we like to pay for it. Whenever we are off duty we don't get paid. When, there?"

And the speaker, a smart "whip" among the London omnibus drivers, ceases his conversation concerning his long hours of labor to pull up his horses and sing out loudly the destination of his omnibus.

They are quaint and curious men, some of these London busmen, with a rich fund of drolery all their own.

"You see, sir," said one, "I don't much care for a holiday; I've been so long on this 'ere bus that things look quite different like when I'm in the street below. I shouldn't know my own children in the street."

"Oh, come! that's too strong."

"Fact, I tell ye, sir; I'm always away in the mornin' afore they're up, and not home till they're in bed at night, and I shouldn't know my little gal if I was to meet her out, especially if I was to see her off my bus."

Truly a significant remark for a man to make in this latter half of the wonderful Nineteenth century—a remark not without a touch of satire and of pathos, too; and we find ourselves asking if it is a necessity of our advanced civilization that men must work so long and so continuously, day after day, that they never see their children except asleep? No sweet, simple prattle about the father's knee, no little fat, dimpled arms around the father's neck, none of the loving, softening influences which little people know so well how to exert over even the most stony hearted of men! Surely, O Christian civilization, these things are not necessities of thy development!

But yet the bus driver rarely complains or grumbles. He does not strike or congregate in mass meetings, or commit acts of riot; but he works patiently on, day by day, steering his horses marvelously well through the crowded London street, and surveying life with a philosophic calm from the altitude of his box, even when a child strays in the way of his horses, and then his language is, perhaps, rougher than are his real feelings.—*The Quiver*.

THE ENGLISH SOCIETY JOURNAL.

The Latest Product of English Life. Daily History of the Aristocracy.

But not only do the English of late years throw notices to the winds when they write their memoirs, they have invented The Society Journal, the latest product of English life. I was living in London when Edmund Yates founded The World. It was so successful that Labouchere's Truth speedily followed, and eclipsed its original in daring freedom of statement and satire. Both papers were frowned upon at the outset and censured harshly by the rigid guardians of society, but read universally. They were seen in every drawing room in London, and in nearly every country house in England; commented on, declaimed against, and finally contributed to, by the fine folks who at first derided them. Doubtless the editors went to jail; untruths were invented, and libel suits were the consequence; but the journals were established, and to-day they are recognized as features, even powers, in the social and political system of England.

All this is natural under a monarchy. The "great," as they call themselves, are to be "greated," as they call themselves, and to be "greated" is to be criticized as well as applauded. They know that the penalty of their position is publicity, and they do not shrink from the unveiling, any more than the actors who play Rosalind or Claudian. Their characters and lives, even their appearance and their manners, have been the theme of comment since the days of Pharaoh's daughter and Helen of Troy, and the talk of to-day is the basis of history to-morrow. The great perform in a theatre where the whole world is audience, and those who sit in the pit have a right to pronounce on play and players.

In England this is recognized. The queen herself corrects the court circular daily for the newspapers. She tells the people when she walks or drives, who dined with her yesterday, and in what order her guests went to table. The aristocracy in the same way allows its languets and balls to be chronicled for the information of its inferiors; and so it goes downward, till fashionable people in London pay a guinea a line to have the accounts of their parties printed in The Morning Post. The very great are so important that the newspapers cannot afford to do without their daily history; but there are many who cannot afford to do without the notices, and these pay the price.—*Adam Badeau's Letter*.

Legend of the Book Agent.

There is a legend to the effect that the agents are made to practice their eloquence upon a wooden dummy set up for the purpose in the back offices of the agencies. They imagine the figure before them to be that of the most unimpressible of their customers, and harangue with the vehemence of an Antony and the pertinacity of a Demosthenes. After they have worked themselves into such a fine frenzy that the perspiration rolls down their faces and their voice rasps like a saw on the nail, they are considered efficient and are sent out on a commission to invade the homes of America with their wares.—*Chicago Tribune*.

A Spitting Car Called For.

There is need that a spitting car be provided for those who chew tobacco, or that those who thus indulge be consigned to the same apartments as their more smoky brethren. It is certainly more of a nuisance to use the floor as a spittoon than it is to leave upon it a little tobacco ash and the flavor of smoke.—*Independent*.

About 20 per cent. of the freshman class at Yale university use tobacco. The average heretofore has been only 16 per cent. Dr. Seaver finds, however, that the class is unusually healthy, though not provided with a large number of large men.—*Harper's Bazar*.

The Virginia State Debt.

To the People of Virginia:
At a meeting of Virginia Bondholders, convened by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, and held on Friday, the 24th of September, 1886, at the Cannon-street Hotel, London, the following resolutions were passed unanimously.

"That this meeting deploring the long contest into which the bondholders have been forced for the maintenance of their rights, and, while asserting its steadfast determination not to accept the Riddleberger settlement, which, in view of the admitted ability of Virginia to settle with her creditors, and the sacrifices they have already made on her behalf, it considers dishonest and unjust, hereby expresses its willingness to meet the State and entertain a reasonable compromise based upon the present taxation and the available revenue, after providing for the Constitutional appropriation for government, schools, and other public expenditure."

The State had the benefit of the whole of the money she originally borrowed (\$34,000,000). It had the foundation of her roads, railways, and canals, and has brought millions of dollars into the country. Had you not constructed these public works with the bondholders' money you would have to be taxed now for them.

No State which borrowed money ever enjoyed the benefit of its loans more than Virginia has done. [See Senate Document XXIV, Session, 1877-78.]

The present unsettled condition of the debt is keeping capital and immigration out of Virginia, and as long as matters so continue you will never develop the splendid resources of the State in the way they deserve.

The revenue of Virginia is increasing. The last assessment shows an increase of \$55,000,000 in taxable values. Your present revenue might be largely increased if the taxes were more carefully collected and the present assessments on property equalized throughout the State.

What might have been difficult to do a few years ago is easy now, and each year the burden will become lighter. When the debt question is settled capital and enterprise, which now holds aloof, will flow into the State.

The settlement offered by the bondholders proposes that the bonds now in existence bearing tax-receivable coupons should be deposited in some trust company; that new bonds should be issued in their place, bearing no tax-receivable coupons, and at a low rate of interest. When the State pays a half-year's interest on the new bonds, the tax-receivable coupons for that half-year shall be cut off the old bonds by the trust company, cancelled, and delivered to the State. Any increase on the present revenue will be appropriated by the State, and the bondholders will not have any claim on it. There was a cash balance last July in the Treasury of \$737,000, and the average purchase of Riddleberger's by the State has been at the rate of \$600,000 per annum in cash. The State has some millions of dollars of assets which would help her in arranging a settlement.

The bondholders are as deeply interested as you are in maintaining the credit and prosperity of your State. They ask for a fair hearing and a discussion of the question by business men, and not by politicians, whose interest it is to prevent an understanding being arrived at and an honorable compromise made. The best way of bringing about this settlement is for taxpayers to tender coupons in payment of their taxes. In view of the conciliatory spirit and liberal offer made by the creditors I venture respectfully to submit to you that it is your moral duty, as well as your legal right and privilege, to tender coupons for taxes now due.

JAMES P. COOPER.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

\$3. \$3.

As the \$2 SHOE seems to be the advertised shoe of the times, I call attention to mine. I have the JAMES MEANS' SHOE to compare with; next, the HAND-WELT WAUKENHAST, in Lace and Congress. Then a FRENCH KIP WIRE-SCREWED SHOE, which will give more wear than anything made. Just the thing for railroad and express men.

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